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JANUARY 22.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-eight persons present.

The death of James C. Hand, a member, was announced.

A paper entitled "On Semper's Method of Making Dried Preparations," by Dr. Benj. Sharp, was presented for publication.

*Indian Mounds on the Miami River.*—Mr. F. W. PUTNAM, Curator of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, Mass., gave an account of the explorations now in progress by himself and Dr. C. L. Metz, of an interesting group of earthworks in the Little Miami valley. It consists of twelve mounds enclosed by an embankment of earth which runs across the lowland and connects by a graded way with a circular embankment on a hill thirty feet high, within which are two other mounds. The mounds have proved to be very important, as several are constructed in a peculiar manner. In two of the mounds circular stone walls were found, and from these walls stones have been laid, covering in the central portions of the mounds. Several of the mounds were stratified, and contained basins, or "altars," of burnt clay, upon which were thousands of objects more or less injured by fire. Burnt human remains were found in several of the mounds, and in others were skeletons, showing that both methods of disposing of the dead were resorted to. Many interesting objects were found with the skeletons. The most important discoveries were made on the "altars," which contained, among other things, many works of art, including small terra-cotta figures representing men and women, carved stone dishes in the form of animals, and various objects cut from mica, among them a serpent and a grotesque human face.

There were also found a large number of objects made of native copper, and several of native or meteoric iron. This is the first time that native iron has been found in the mounds. Several copper ornaments were covered with silver, and a few fragments of a thin sheet of hammered native gold were also obtained. Over fifty thousand pearls were found on one of the altars, with thousands of other ornaments made of bone, shell, and the teeth of animals. Among the latter were large canine teeth of bears, which may prove to be those of the grizzly bear, or some species larger than the black bear. Several chipped points of obsidian and a number of singular pendants made in a peculiar manner from a micaceous schist, were on one of the altars.

Another important discovery was mentioned as having just been made, but not yet worked out. This consisted of a series